

# OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER

## WHEN TO PLOW CLOVER SOD.

A Morgan County (Ill.) correspondent says that some of his neighbors claim that the best way to handle clover is to take off a crop of hay and then plow under the second growth. He asks whether it would not be more profitable to take off both a hay and a seed crop. I should by all means take off both crops. By doing this we allow the clover roots to make their fullest development. We should get around two tons of hay an acre, besides the seed crop, which ordinarily is worth much more than the green plants. It has been found that clover roots contain a larger percentage of nitrogenous matter when left to mature seed than when the crop is removed earlier, or when the field is pastured after the first cutting. Many lose sight of the fact that it is the clover roots that distribute the nitrogen most evenly through the soil.—L. C. Brown, in Tribune Farmer.

## WITH AXE AND SAW.

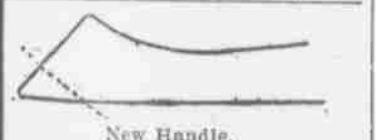
After buying a new axe be careful to chop the sharp point off the butt of the handle before using, as shown in illustration, or you will most likely imitate the Japs and commit happy despatch by jabbing it into your paunch or groin. Of course, if you are in a lodge, this does not matter, as, if you die your heirs will get the butt— and if you do not, you can



Felling Tree.

bobble round on a stick and your lodge money, and advise other choppers to do likewise.

It is a curious thing that a good axe in the store nearly always has a bad grained handle in it. The only way to do is to use the bad handle till it breaks and then put in a good one. You can, of course, take the handle out and give it away, if extra particular. To do this, take a brace and small centre bit—one that just clears the wedge in the axe eye; chop the axe firmly down into a dry stump, and bore out the wedge clean, then



New Handle.

work the handle about a little and it will come out. In buying a handle choose the right grain, and one thin rather than thick, all one color, and that white or whitish yellow. If offered one with dark and light colors in it by the storekeeper throw it at him, as the colors will separate when worked, taking the different parts of the handle with them.

In felling a large tree cut on a few inches with an axe on the side opposite the saw cut and well below, then by following the saw with a wedge the saw will not bind and the tree will fall in an opposite direction without much splintering. Start the axe and saw lower in the trunk than indicated by the drawing.—R. Kelsey, in the American Cultivator.

## WATCH YOUR CLOVER FIELD.

If you find a yellow vine squeezing and sucking the life out of patches of your clover or alfalfa, you are pretty sure in concluding that you have a genuine case of dodder. It is really alarming to find so many dodder infested fields. Where does it all come from? In the seed, of course. Right now is the time to hunt for dodder and stamp it out. You can't mistake it. It is a leafless, yellow vine, which winds around the clover or alfalfa plant. Don't try to pull it up by the roots, for it hasn't any. That is, after it has firmly taken hold of its host. It decays and breaks from the ground and lives entirely off its host. It sucks the very life out of plant. The plant spreads quickly, and if left it will fill the ground with seeds. It is one of the meanest pests we now have to fight. Cut it and burn it—cut plants and all, and make sure that you do it before the dodder matures its seed.—L. C. Brown, in New York Tribune.

## A HUMOROUS PATIENT.

Surgery has much to gain from spinal cocainization, says Robert Jones, a Liverpool surgeon, in the Medical Press. He advocates this process in cases where patients cannot or will not take other anaesthetics. The resulting insensibility to pain lasts more than an hour, but the patient often develops abnormal loquacity.

Mr. Jones tells of an operation in which he cocainized the spine. It was that of a big man, who as soon as he had taken two or three whiffs of chloroform jumped off the operating table and scampered away. This happened twice, and Mr. Jones tried cocainization, injecting cocaine into the cerebro-spinal fluid. By this means a troublesome operation of cutting out bones in the leg was safely carried out. The man, an old poacher, meantime regaled the doctors with stories of his art, only once interrupting when the surgeon was chiseling a bone, to ask, "What is that knocking?"—London Mail.

## An Interesting Parrot.

A remarkable parrot was killed at Lytham on Saturday. The owner, an Ansdell gentleman, had had the bird for twelve years, and it accompanied him on his walks into the country. It would fly home, a distance of two miles, and visit flocks of tame birds, but it always returned home for its food. On Saturday it flew into some trees at Ballam and a man, thinking it was a pigeon after his peas, brought it down with his gun.—London News.

## MAKING BELIEVE.

"Your wife seems to be in some trouble."  
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